responsibilities and rights. This principle is underlined in the G-4 Framework Resolution. However, based on extensive consultations and keeping in view the wide divergence of views on the issue of Veto, the G-4 Resolution provides for a decision on this issue at a review which is envisaged 15 years after the entry into force of the amendments to the UN Charter for the expansion of the Security Council.

Approval before inviting foreign delegation

1687. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Secretary has instructed all agencies including private concerns to take the approval of his Ministry before inviting any foreign delegation, whether political or business, to the country; and

(b) if so, the other details of instructions given by the Ministry of External Affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (b) No, Sir.

(b) Cabinet Secretary *vide* his letter dated June 1, 2006 asked various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and State Government to follow the instructions issued by the Ministry of External Affairs *vide* their OM No. Q/GA/557/1/85(EA1/1/85/39) dated November 18,1995 on channel of communication between the Government of India and State Governments on the one hand and foreign Governments, international organisations and their diplomatic missions in India on the other.

These instructions make it desirable that Government and private organisations should extend invitations to delegations from foreign countries to visit India after consulting the Ministry of External Affairs as well as Ministry of Home Affairs. Similarly, they are advised to accept invitation to send delegations to visit foreign countries with the knowledge and consent of Ministry of External Affairs.

These instructions were evolved keeping in view our foreign policy objectives, security interests, considerations of protocol, coordination and provide assistance to delegations going abroad. These are not meant to

act as hindrance in the functioning of our Government or private sector organisations.

Guidelines to passport offices

1688. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines to the passport offices to renew the passport including expired over within two days of their submission: and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Guidelines have been recently issued to the Passport Offices to renew the passport including, expired ones in three working days subject to completion of certain formalities. However, due to certain practical difficulties including acute shortage of staff in Passport Officer and non-availability of previous passport details of the applicants in some cases, the modalities in this regard are presently being worked out.

Visit of Russian Premier

1689. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of agreements were signed during the recent visit of Shri Mikhail Fradkov the Russian Premier;

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof; and

(c) whether any such agreement have been effected so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the visit, the following seven documents were signed:— (i) Agreement between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Federal Space Agency (ROSCOSMOS) of the Russian Federation for launching of Russian navigation satelites GLONASS-M, by a variant of the Indian Geo-Synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV); (ii) Agreement between the Indian Space